(d) No, Sir.

(e) The time taken to deal with passenger depends on a number of factors such as the enquiries made, onward and/or return reservations requested, concessions sought etc. However, all attempts are being made through improvements in software, upgradation of hardware and opening of additional counters during peak hours etc. to ensure that customers are serviced within reasonable time.

कर्णाटक और गोवा के लिए नई पर्यटक रेलगाड़ियों का चलाया जाना

354. डा० **बापू कालदाते** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कर्णाटक और गोवा के लिए एक नई पर्यटक रेलगाड़ी प्रारम्भ की जा रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार महाराष्ट्र के पर्यटन स्थलों के लिए औरंगाबाद, नासिक, अहमदनगर, पुणे और कोल्हापुर के बीच कोई पर्यटक रेलगाड़ी चलाने का विचार रखती है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) जी नहीं ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(घ) रेलों के पास इस समय संसाधनों की भारी तंगी है और सवारी डिब्बों के निर्माण की क्षमता का अभाव है, साथ ही उन्हें नियमित सेवाओं में लगाने की भारी मांग भी है ।

Conversion of Metre Gauge

355. **SHRI SURESH PACHOURI**: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert metre gauge rail tracks into broad gauge during the 8th Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have earmarked any metre gauge tracks in the State of Madhya Pradesh for being converted into broad-gauge during the said plan period; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conversions proposed to be taken up in the first year of 8th Five Year Plan are contained in the book "Works Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme of Railway for 1992-93" supplied alongwith the Budget papers.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, However, conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia NG line (226 Km, 212 Km in MP) to BG line has been included in the works to be taken up during the 8th Plan.

रेलवे द्वारा मानार्थ पासों का जारी किया जाना

356. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 25 जून, 1991 से 31 जनवरी, 1993 तक की अवधि के दौरान रेलवे ने कुल कितने मानार्थ पास जारी किए हैं; और

(ख) लाभ भोगियों के विवरण सहित इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) 25-6-91 से 31-1-92 तक की अवधि के दौरान सैंतालीस मानार्थ कार्ड पास जारी किए गए थे ।

(ख) एक विवरण संलग्न है । (**देखिए** परिशिष्ट 162 अनुषंग संख्या 10)

Increase in Luggage charges

357. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have announced an increase of 30 per cent

in luggage charges as compared to the parcel rates with effect from January 16, 1992; and

(b) if so, whether the lower class passengers are allowed less luggage free of charges; if so, the details in this regard and the reasons for such discrimination in particular and the hike in general ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The luggage rates have been fixed at 30% higher than the General Parcel rates w.e.f. 16-1-1992 as against 10% earlier.

(b) There is no reduction in the free allowance on luggage because of the hike in luggage rate. The existing free allowance on luggage is as follows :

II Class	35 Kgs.
A.C. Chair Car . . .	40 kgs.
A.C. Sleeper/I Class . .	50 kgs.
A.C. I Class . . .	70 kgs.

Passengers paying fare for higher class of accommodation are given more free allowance than those of lower class.

The increase in luggage rate is uniformly applicable.

Konkan Railway Project

358. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Konkan Railway project is facing problems and is likely to be delayed ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New train from Shirdi to Bombay

359. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start a new train called 'Sai Express' from Shirdi to Bombay ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Conversion of Metre Gauge

360. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government propose to convert all matre-gague lines into broad-gauge; and

(b) What are the datails of proposals for conversion of metre-gauge lines in Andhra Pradesh during next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Government propose to selectively convert M.G. lines to B.G. to move towards a Uni-gauge system.

(b) The lines selected for conversion in Andhra-Pradesh during the VIII Plan include Guntur-Guntakal-Kalluru ; Dronachalam-Secunderabad-Bolaram ; Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati; Rayadurg-Obulapuram of Rayadurg Bellary section.

Cancellation of Express Trains in South Central Railways

361. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the South Central Railway has cancelled some of the express trains recently to save diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) What is its impact on the passenger traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) 5 pairs of trains which serve South Central Railway have been temporarily cancelled and will be restored during April, 1992 . In view of alternative connecting services being available and this being a lean period , there has not been much impact on passenger traffic.